Consumption of Petroleum Products

3516. SHRI S.B. SIDNAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the details of consumption of major petroleum products like HSD (High Speed Diesel), ATF (Aviation Turbine Fuel), Kerosene, LPG (Liquified Petroleum Gas) and MS (Motor Spirit) during 1988-89 and 1989-90.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR):

(Figs. in TMT)

Products	*1988-89*	*1989-90*
LPG	1962	2268
MS	3052	3491
ATF	1713	1775
SKO	7731	8239
HSD	18795	20706

Implementation of Kandla-Bhatinda Product Pipeline Project

3517. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government have decided to implement the Kandla-Bhatinda Product Pipeline project;

(b) if so, whether the Government have revised the cost of the project since it has been delayed inordinately;

(c) if so, the revised cost thereof;

(d) the stage at which the construction of the project stands; and

(e) the steps taken to expedite the implementation of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Basic design and engineering has been completed. Consultants have been appointed. Acquisition of land for Right of Way is in progress. Orders have been placed for supply of indigenous line pipes.

Request for Allocation of Natural Gas

3518. KUMARI DIPIKA CHIKHLIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has requested for the allocation of at least 8 million cubic metere Natural Gas for the requirement of Industries and generation Power;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Union Government thereon;

(c) whether there is any proposal under the consideration to reduce the price of natural gas;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR) (a) and (b): Various requests have been received from time to time from the Governmente of Gujarat for allocation of additional quantity of Natural Gas. The entire gas being produced in Gujarat, along with substantial quantities of Offshore gas, have already been committed to various consumers in Gujarat. Further allocation would depend on various factors including production and availability of gas.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Increasing exploration and production costs do for not justify a decrease in prices.

Issue of Passports

3519. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL:
SHRI V.S. VIJAYA-RAGHAVAN:
SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS:
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:
SHRI K. MURALEE DHARAN:
SHRI PALA K.M. MATHEW:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Queuing up for Passports" appearing in the Tribune dated October 10, 1991;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to speed up the issue of passports by various passport offices including that from Chandigarh Office;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase the staff strength of the various passport offices in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, Passport Office-wise?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Passport procedure have been simplified with a view to expedite issue of passports. Details of steps taken are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d). A proposal to increase the staff strength of various Passport Offices is under study.

Statement

Details of steps taken to reduce delays:-

1. Following categories of applicants have been exempted from requirement of Prior Police and CID verification before issue of passports to them;

   (a) All Government servants and Employees of Public Sector Undertaking who alongwith their applications submit No Objection Certificate (NOC) and Verification Certificate Signed by their Head of Department on official stationery.